

E.O. 12065: GDS 12/18/87 (VOUGHT, JOHN) OR-P
TAGS: MPOL, PINS, PIAT, PGOV, PL, OVIS
SUBJECT: SITREP #23

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. WARSAW LIGHTS OFF DEMONSTRATION -- WE HAVE ONLY FRAGMENTARY REPORTS CONCERNING THE LIGHTS OUT PROTEST THAT WAS ORGANIZED BY WORD-OF-MOUTH AROUND THE CITY ON DECEMBER 18. IN ONE LARGE APARTMENT COMPLEX (FOUR BUILDINGS OF 18 FLOORS) IN SOUTHERN WARSAW LESS THAN THIRTY PERCENT OF THE APARTMENTS WERE DARKENED AND HAD SMALL CANDLES IN THEIR WINDOWS. IN MOKOTOW DISTRICT, WHERE MANY PARTY AND GOVERNMENT PEOPLE LIVE, THERE WERE LESS THAN TEN PERCENT OF THE HOMES AND APARTMENTS DARKENED. A WESTERN DIPLOMAT DRIVING THROUGH MOKOTOW DISTRICT SAW SEVERAL APARTMENT BUILDINGS WITH OVER 50 PERCENT OF THE WINDOWS DISPLAYING CANDLES.

3. SOME SIGNS OF RETURNING TO NORMALCY. A LONG LINE OF TAXI DRIVERS WERE WAITING FOR GAS SUPPLIES WHICH THEY EXPECTED TO BE DELIVERED TO THEIR STATION ON NIEPODLEGLOSCI AVENUE. WHEN EMBASSY OFFICER PASSED THE SITE AT 1030 A LARGE TANK TRUCK WITH A POLICE TRUCK ESCORT WAS ARRIVING AT THE PUMPS. IN ADDITION, DRIVING SCHOOL HAS STARTED AGAIN IN WARSAW AND THEIR FAVORITE STREET IN MOKOTOW HAD TWO NAUKA JAZDY VEHICLES GOING BY FITS AND STARTS DOWN THE ROAD. A POLISH DOCTOR TOLD EMBOFF SPOUSE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOW OPENED UP A SPECIAL GAS STATION FOR MEDICAL DOCTORS (AND OTHER SPECIAL CATEGORIES OF VITAL PERSONNEL).

4. TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS AND A SEARCH OF EMBASSY OFFICER'S

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CAR. AT APPROXIMATELY 2140 ON DEC. 17 WHILE TRAVELLING HOME FROM THE EMBASSY, EMBASSY OFFICER WAS STOPPED AT FOUR ROADBLOCKS ALONG KONAROWA STREET. THE ROAD BLOCKS WERE AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF NARBUTTA, MADALINSKIEGO, PIKTORSKA, AND RACLAWICA. AT EACH ROADBLOCK EMBASSY

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5. AT 0730 ON DEC. 16, EMBOFF DROVE FROM HOME TO EMBASSY AND ROADBLOCKS OF THE PREVIOUS NIGHT HAD DISAPPEARED. EMBOFF TRAVELLED NORTH ON KONAROVA AND ATTEMPTED TO TURN RIGHT INTO NARBUTTA, HOWEVER SOLDIERS TURNED THE OFFICER AWAY. WHILE TALKING TO THE SOLDIER AT THIS ROADBLOCK, HE OBSERVED APPROXIMATELY 18 SOLDIERS SEARCHING PASSENGERS ON BUSES THAT WERE STOPPED AT A WAITING AREA ON NARBUTTA. FOUR CARS ON NIEPODLEGLOSCI JUST NORTH OF THE INTERSECTION OF NARBUTTA WERE ALSO STOPPED FOR INSPECTION. OTHER CARS PASSED UNIMPEDED. WHILE RETURNING HOME AT APPROXIMATELY 2145 ON DEC. 17, EMBOFF WAS DELAYED BY A MILITARY/POLICE CHECKPOINT AND HIS VEHICLE SEARCHED. THE OFFICER WAS ASKED FOR HIS ID PAPERS AND DRIVER'S LICENSE. THE SOLDIERS INSISTED THAT HE OPEN THE TRUNK OF HIS CAR. HE PROTESTED BUT THEY INSISTED AND SINCE THEY WERE YOUNG, INEXPERIENCED, COLD, IRRITATED AND HEAVILY ARMED, HE COMPLIED. AFTER TWO PERFUNCTORY SEARCHES OF THE TRUNK THE OFFICER WAS ALLOWED TO PROCEED.

6. WARSAW WEATHER. THE CITY REMAINS BITTERLY COLD WITH TEMPERATURES PERHAPS AROUND 10 DEGREES (F). A LIGHT SNOW IS FALLING AND THERE ARE LIGHT WINDS. SKIES ARE HEAVILY OVERCAST AND CEILING IS UNDER TWO HUNDRED FEET. STREETS ARE SLICK AND SLIPPERY.

7. POLICE RESTRICTIONS ON EMBASSY ACCESS AND VISA PROCEDURES. ALTHOUGH NO PATROLMEN IN THE EARLY MORNING DEC. 18 WERE NOT STOPPING AND RECORD NAMES OF AMERICANS ENTERING

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THE BUILDING AND WERE NOT STOPPING ALL POLES NOT EMPLOYED AT THE CHANCERY. BY 1000 THEY WERE AGAIN IMPEDING AND PREVENTING ACCESS. WHEN QUERIED BY EMBOFF AS TO WHAT THEY WERE DOING, THE OFFICERS STATED THEY WERE FOLLOWING THE SAME ORDERS AS YESTERDAY. PERSONNEL BARRICADES ARE STILL IN PLACE ON ALL THE SIDEWALKS.

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AROUND THE EMBASSY WITH A SIGN IN POLISH THAT ENTRY
IS PROHIBITED

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8. THERE HAS BEEN A RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT THAT POLISH
CITIZENS DESIRING TO TRAVEL ABROAD SHOULD OBTAIN THEIR
VISAS THROUGH ORBIS, THE POLISH NATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICE.
A REPRESENTATIVE OF ORBIS CALLED AT THE EMBASSY DEC. 17
TO PROPOSE THAT POLISH CITIZENS WHO WISH TO TRAVEL TO THE
US IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS OR AS IMMIGRANTS SHOULD PROCESS
THEIR VISA APPLICATIONS THROUGH ORBIS. HE SPOKE WITH
EMBOFF WHO TOLD HIM TO RETURN DEC. 18 FOR A RESPONSE.
AT THE TIME OF HIS RETURN ON DEC. 18 HE WAS ADVISED THAT
THE WILICJA DID NOT APPEAR TO BE KEEPING POLES FROM
ENTERING THE EMBASSY AND SO WAS TOLD THAT THE PROPOSAL
NO LONGER SEEMED NECESSARY. HE WAS ADVISED THAT IF THE
SITUATION CHANGED THE EMBASSY WOULD WISH TO HAVE THE
PROPOSAL IN WRITING, PREFERABLY IN THE FORM OF A DIPLO-
MATIC NOTE.

9. MORNING FACTOR SURVEY. EMBOFF TEAMS COVERED
URSUS, HUTA WARSZAWA AND FSO BETWEEN 0920 AND 1045.
AT FSO, NO MILITARY OR POLICE WERE IN SIGHT. IT COULD
NOT BE DETERMINED WHETHER THE AUTOMOBILE ASSEMBLY LINE
WAS OPERATING. AT HUTA WARSZAWA, NO SMOKE WAS VISIBLE
FROM THE EXHAUST STACKS. ALTHOUGH A FEW PEOPLE WERE
SEEN ENTERING THE PLANT. NO POLICE/MILITARY WERE VISIBLE,
BUT SEVERAL MILITARY VEHICLES WERE SEEN MOVING
AROUND IN THE AREA. THERE WAS SOME PRODUCTION ACTIVITY
GOING ON IN URSUS AND PEOPLE WERE SEEN ENTERING THE FACTORY.
NO POLICE/MILITARY VISIBLE OUTSIDE.

10. MILITARY MOVEMENTS IN WARSAW. EMBOFF RETURNING
HOME JUST BEFORE CURFEW AT 2130 ON DEC. 17 SAW
A CONVOY OF TRACKED ARMORED VEHICLES (BMPS) PROCEEDING
NORTH ON NIEPODLICLOSI AVENUE AND TURNING EAST TOWARD THE

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MINISTRY OF INTERIOR COMPLEXES ON PAKOWIECKA STREET.
EMBOFF COUNTED SEVEN BMPS MAKING THE TURN. THE CONVOY MAY
HAVE BEEN...
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AT THE INTERSECTION... MILITARY POLICE DURING PERIOD OF
... OFFICER... VEHICLES PROCEEDING AT

11. 0 DEC 18, SIX ARMY TRUCKS PASSED 19 E 8-55, AT 0930. FIVE MILITIA VANS WERE WITH THE TRUCKS. 0 DEC. 18, ENBOFF OBSERVED TANKS CROSSING POLANSKA FROM RAKOWIECKA TO GONORKA SPACEROLA AT 0830. AT 1000 ENBOFF SAW FIVE TRUCKLOADS OF SOLDIERS PASSING THE PALACE OF SCIENCE AND CULTURE (PKiN). APPROXIMATELY SIX PERSONNEL TRANSPORTS WERE PARKED ON A SIDE STREET SOUTHEAST OF THE MARSZALKOWSKA-SWIERCZEWSKIEGO INTERSECTION TURNING NORTH ONTO MARSZALKOWSKA AND HEADING NORTH.

12. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
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END OF MESSAGE

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